

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-57. (canceled)

58. (new) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting essentially of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

59. (new) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

60. (new) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising at least 30 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

61. (new) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 60, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises at least 60 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

62. (new) An isolated nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes to either strand of a denatured, double-stranded DNA comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, wherein the hybridization conditions include 50% formamide and 6XSSC, at 42°C with washing conditions of 60°C, 0.5XSSC, 0.1% SDS.

63. (new) An isolated nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes to either strand of a denatured, double-stranded DNA comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, wherein the hybridization conditions include 50% formamide and 6XSSC, at 42°C with washing conditions of 60°C, 0.5XSSC, 0.1% SDS, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

64. (new) An isolated nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes either strand of a denatured, double-stranded DNA comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, wherein the hybridization conditions include 50% formamide and 6XSSC, at 42°C

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with washing conditions of 60°C, 0.5XSSC, 0.1% SDS, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:3, and further wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide that binds to cells expressing an IL-1 delta receptor.

65. (new) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 64, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is at least 95% identical to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

66. (new) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 65, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is at least 98% identical to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

67. (new) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 66, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is at least 99% identical to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

68. (new) An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 64.

69. (new) A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 68.

70. (new) A method for producing a polypeptide, the method comprising culturing a host cell of claim 69 under conditions that promote expression of the polypeptide.

71. (new) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 64, wherein said encoded polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a polypeptide having one or more inactivated N-linked glycosylation sites;
- (b) a polypeptide having one or more inactivated KEX2 sites;
- (c) a polypeptide having one or more deleted or substituted Cys residues; and
- (d) a polypeptide having one or more of the changes of (a)-(c).

72. (new) An isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

73. (new) An isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4, wherein the fragment binds to cells expressing an IL-1 delta receptor.

74. (new) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 73, wherein said encoded polypeptide fragment has an amino terminus selected from amino acids 1 through 5 of SEQ ID NO:4 and a carboxy terminus selected from amino acids 151 through 155 of SEQ ID NO:4.

75. (new) An isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide that comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, wherein the polypeptide binds to cells expressing an IL-1 delta receptor.

76. (new) An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 75.

77. (new) A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 76.

78. (new) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 75, wherein said encoded polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polypeptide having one or more inactivated N-linked glycosylation sites;

(b) a polypeptide having one or more inactivated KEX2 sites;

(c) a polypeptide having one or more deleted or substituted Cys residues; and

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(d) a polypeptide having one or more of the changes of (a)-(c).

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